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No 31

Division of
the South

Head Quarters Nashville

December 20th 1820

Sir

I am directed by the Commanding
to notify you, that the instructions given to you in my let-
ter of the 15th inst. in relation to the removal of the Detachment
on the Sabine river are hereby changed, and if you shall
have issued an order previous to the receipt of this, removing
the Detachment, you will immediately suspend its execution,
and continue the Detachment on the Sabine until a change
be made in compliance with the enclosed instructions from
the Sect^y of War to Gen Jackson —

Gov^r J Villeri represents the extensive
Parish of Natchitoches as thinly populated on its frontier, and
without an adequate regular force to protect it against the
invasions, that may be attempted by the Spaniards, or by the
Indians, with whom they may associate or enlist against
us in the surrounding country, and in order to ensure se-
curity to the Parish and deprive the Spaniards of the power of
disturbing us with the Indians, he has suggested to the Presi-
dent the propriety of building and garrisoning a small Fort
on the Sabine River. This suggestion induced the instructions

enclosed.

In order to effect the object of the Sec^y of War, the Gen^l, directs that you report to him as soon as practicable the strength and situation of the Detachment on the Sabine and the company at Natchitoches, and that you dispatch a confidential officer to explore and select a suitable spot on or near the Sabine for the erection of a Fort, and with instructions to report to you as to whether the Garrison at Natchitoches would not afford equal protection to the Frontier being advanced to or near the Sabine river,

I am Sir very respectfully
Y^r Obedt servant

Andrew J. Donelson
Acting Sec^y

A. Bissell, Brig^{ad} Gen^l
Command^g 8th Inf^y Regt